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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/777,917	02/11/2004	Robert William Dobbs	200209626-1	5500

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EXAMINER

BUTLER, DENNIS

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2115

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/09/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/777,917

Applicant(s)

DOBBS ET AL.

Examiner

Dennis M. Butler

Art Unit

2115

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. This action is in response to the amendment received on November 20, 2006.

Claims 1-22 are pending.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, US Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office Action.

3. The rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn in view of applicant's amendment.

4. Claims 1, 7 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by de Vries, U. S. Patent 6,433,444.

Per claims 1 and 22:

A) de Vries teaches the following claimed items:

1. a power distribution system with figure 2 and at column 3, lines 12-15;
2. a first group of sources (power modules 203-205), a second group of sources (power modules 206-207 and a third alternate power module) and a bank of loads (loads 230) with the power modules and loads shown in figure 2, with the power module of figure 3, at column 3, lines 12-33 and 60-67, at column 4, lines 22-31 and at column 6, lines 4-11;
3. an interconnect arrangement including a plurality of interconnects connecting each load to one or more sources of both the first and second groups of sources so as to be fully powered by sources of both the first and second groups of sources and such that if any one source or all sources of one of the groups of sources fails, all of the loads remain fully powered with transfer modules 208-210 and power distribution modules 212-214 of figure 2, with figure

4, at column 2, lines 62-66, at column 3, lines 12-33 and 60-67, at column 4, lines 57-65, at column 5, lines 7-30 and at column 5, line 36 – column 6, line 11.

Per claim 7:

de Vries describes that the first group of sources are AC sources with figure 3 at column 3, lines 15-18 and at column 4, lines 43-47.

5. Claims 2-6 and 8-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over de Vries, U. S. Patent 6,433,444 in view of Bobry, U. S. Patent 5,994,793.

Per claims 9 and 11:

A) de Vries teaches the following claimed items:

1. a power distribution system with figure 2 and at column 3, lines 12-15;
2. a group of AC sources (power modules 203-205), a second group of sources (power modules 206-207 and a third alternate power module) and a bank of loads (loads 230) with the power modules and loads shown in figure 2, with the power module of figure 3, at column 3, lines 12-33 and 60-67, at column 4, lines 22-31 and at column 6, lines 4-11;
3. an interconnect arrangement including a plurality of interconnects connecting each load to one or more sources of both the first and second groups of sources so as to be fully powered by sources of both the first and second groups of sources and such that if any one source or all sources of one of the groups of sources fails, all of the loads remain fully powered with transfer modules 208-210 and power distribution modules 212-214 of figure 2, with figure

Art Unit: 2115

4, at column 2, lines 62-66, at column 3, lines 12-33 and 60-67, at column 4, lines 57-65, at column 5, lines 7-30 and at column 5, line 36 – column 6, line 11.

B) The claims differ from de Vries in that de Vries fails to explicitly teach that the second group of sources are a group of DC sources as claimed.

C) However, de Vries describes providing a second group of sources (alternate power modules) that include a UPS that may supply backup power using batteries with figure 3 and at column 5, lines 19-22. In addition, Bobry teaches that it is known to provide a power distribution system that includes a second group of sources that are a group of DC sources at column 1, lines 46-65 and at column 3, lines 43-51. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a power distribution system that includes a second group of sources that are a group of DC sources, as taught by Bobry, in order to provide an alternate power source capable of maintaining full uninterrupted power to critical loads when one or more of the primary power sources fail. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine de Vries and Bobry because of de Vries suggestion of providing redundancy in all systems of the power distribution system at column 2, lines 62-66 and because of Bobry's suggestion that it is known to use batteries or DC sources as a secondary power source at column 1, lines 47-58. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine de Vries and Bobry because they are both directed to the problem of providing uninterruptible power to critical loads in a power distribution system.

Per claims 2-6, 8, 10 and 12-21:

Claims 2-6, 8, 10 and 12-21 recite various configurations of loads and corresponding power source configurations. de Vries describes that the system power requirements are determined by the power requirements and the amount of redundancy desired at the site at column 3, lines 39-51. Therefore, the particular load and power source configurations are design choices and it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide various power source configurations that match the power requirements of the loads being powered and the desired redundancy of the site.

6. Applicant's arguments filed on November 20, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the Remarks, applicant has argued in substance that:

A. Claim 1 recites "each load [is connected] to one or more sources of both the first and second groups of sources". Thus, according to the present application, it is not necessary to quickly switch in an alternate power module to maintain full power at the loads.

B. The examiner has not shown that deVries or Bobry, in combination or alone, disclose or reasonably suggests "an interconnect arrangement including a plurality of interconnects, The interconnects connecting each load to one or more sources of both the first and second groups of sources so as to be fully powered by sources of both the first and second groups of sources and such that if any

one source or all sources of one of the groups of sources fails, all of the loads remain fully powered”.

7. As to point A, the examiner disagrees with applicant's assertions. Claim 1 does not recite the quoted phrase, in particular, the bracketed section. The claim recites an interconnect arrangement including interconnects connecting each load to one or more sources of both the first and second groups of sources. Furthermore, the issue is not whether deVries quickly switches in an alternate power source and is not whether the present application (specification) describes a different way of interconnecting sources and loads than deVries discloses. The issue is whether deVries teaches the interconnect arrangement limitations to the extent recited in claim 1. Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how **the language of the claims** patentably distinguishes them from the references. Applicant has argued how the reference deVries differs from the claims/application rather than how the claims differ from deVries. deVries clearly teaches all of the limitations recited in claim 1 as described in the above detailed art rejection.

As to point B, the examiner disagrees with applicant's assertions. DeVries teaches the interconnect arrangement to the extent claimed as described in the above art rejections. DeVries teaches an interconnect arrangement with figure 2. deVries describes interconnects (transfer modules 208-210 and power distribution modules 212-214) connecting each load (load 230) to one or more sources of both the first (power modules 203-205) and second (power modules 206-207) groups of sources so as to be

Art Unit: 2115

fully powered by sources of both the first and second groups of sources with figure 2, at column 2, lines 62-66, at column 3, lines 12-33 and 60-67, at column 4, lines 57-65, at column 5, lines 7-30 and at column 5, line 36 – column 6, line 11. deVries clearly describes that the transfer and power distribution modules connect both the normal and alternate power modules to each load so as to be fully powered by sources of both the normal and alternate power modules. Figure 2 clearly shows that both normal and alternate power modules connect to each power distribution module so as to fully power each load. DeVries provides an example of connecting normal and alternate power modules so as to fully power each load at column 3, lines 52-66. In the example, normal power modules 203 and 204 and alternate power module 206 are connected so as to fully power loads 230 of figure 2. deVries describes the interconnects (transfer modules 208-210 and power distribution modules 212-214) connecting each load (load 230) to one or more sources of both the first (power modules 203-205) and second (power modules 206-207) groups of sources such that if any one source or all sources of one of the groups of sources fails, all of the loads remain fully powered with figure 2, at column 2, lines 62-66, at column 3, lines 12-33 and 60-67, at column 4, lines 57-65, at column 5, lines 7-30 and at column 5, line 36 – column 6, line 11. deVries disclosure is directed to a modular fault tolerant power distribution system. DeVries describes that the power distribution system features double and triple redundancy in all systems and at all levels of power distribution at column 2, lines 62-66. deVries describes providing three alternate power sources selectable through a triple source transfer switch that provides for triple redundancy and an alternate power source for each of the normal power

sources at column 6, lines 4-11. DeVries further describes that the fault tolerant power distribution system provides uninterrupted power to the loads in the event of a power failure with figure 3 and at column 4, lines 57-65. deVries clearly teaches interconnects connecting each load to one or more sources of both the first and second groups of sources such that if any one source or all sources of one of the groups of sources fails, all of the loads remain fully powered.

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis M. Butler whose telephone number is 571-272-3663. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

Art Unit: 2115

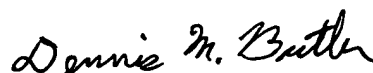
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Dennis M. Butler
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2115